

CLAIMS

1. A toner hopper engagement device comprising:
a base member configured to engage a toner hopper of an image forming apparatus which has a sliding-type toner hopper lid; and
a first orifice provided on said base member and configured to allow toner to pass through said base member into the hopper.
2. The engagement device according to claim 1, wherein said first orifice comprises a toner container engagement portion configured to be releasably engagable with a toner container.
3. The engagement device according to claim 2, further comprising a second orifice positioned to be on a same side of said first orifice towards which the toner hopper lid is pulled to be opened.
4. The engagement device according to claim 2, wherein said toner container engagement portion comprises an annular wall having an inner and outer surface, wherein said inner surface of said annular wall includes contours configured to provide an interference fit with an outlet of a toner container.
5. The engagement device according to claim 4, wherein said contours comprise threads.
6. The engagement device according to claim 4, wherein said contours comprise ridges.
7. The engagement device according to claim 1, wherein said base member includes protrusions configured to releasably engage with receptacles formed on the toner hopper.
8. The engagement device according to claim 1, further comprising a film provided on an outlet of a toner container, wherein said first orifice is configured to be releasably engagable with said outlet.

9. The engagement device according to claim 2, further comprising a sealing member provided on an outlet end of a toner container, wherein said toner container engagement portion is configured to be releasably engagable with the outlet of the toner container.

10. The engagement device according to claim 9, wherein said sealing member includes an adhesive portion on a side facing an exterior of the toner container.

11. The engagement device according to claim 10, wherein said first orifice is configured to allow said adhesive portion to contact an outer surface of a lid of the hopper when said engagement device is engaged with said hopper and when the toner container is engaged with said orifice.

12. The engagement device according to claim 10, wherein said toner container engagement portion is configured to allow said adhesive portion to contact a surface of a lid of the hopper when said engagement device is engaged with the hopper and when the toner container is engaged with said toner container engagement portion.

13. The engagement device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a first indica provided on a toner container adjacent the opening of the toner container;
and

a second indica provided on said base member adjacent said first orifice, said second indica positioned to indicate a desired position of said first indica when the toner container is engaged with said orifice.

14. The engagement device according to claim 2, further comprising:
a first indica provided on a toner container adjacent the opening of the toner container;
and

a second indicia provided on said base member adjacent said toner container engagement portion, said second indicia positioned to indicate a desired position of said first indicia when the toner container is engaged with said toner container engagement portion.

15. A toner container comprising:

a toner storage portion having an opening;

a sealing member attached to said opening; and

an adhesive portion provided on said sealing member having adhesive on at least a portion of said adhesive portion which does not face an interior of said toner storage portion.

16. The toner container according to claim 15, wherein said adhesive portion has a length approximately equal to a diameter of said opening.

17. The toner container according to claim 15, further comprising an indicia adjacent said opening, said indicia positioned so as to indicate a proper position of said toner container when said toner container is engaged with a toner hopper engagement device provided on a toner hopper of an image forming apparatus having a sliding type lid, so that said adhesive portion may be peeled off by a movement of the lid of the toner hopper.

18. A toner refill kit comprising:

a base member configured to engage a toner hopper of an image forming apparatus which has a sliding-type toner hopper lid;

a toner container having a toner storage portion and an opening; and

a first orifice provided on said base member and configured to allow toner to pass through said base member into the hopper, said first orifice being releasably engagable with said opening.

19. The toner refill kit according to claim 18, wherein said first orifice comprises a toner container engagement portion configured to be releasably engagable with said toner container.

20. The toner refill kit according to claim 19, further comprising a second orifice positioned to be on a same side of said first orifice towards which the toner hopper lid is pulled to be opened.

21. The toner refill kit according to claim 19, wherein said toner container engagement portion comprises an annular wall having an inner and outer surface, wherein said inner surface of said annular wall includes contours configured to provide an interference fit with said opening of said toner container.

22. The toner refill kit according to claim 21, wherein said contours comprise threads.

23. The toner refill kit according to claim 21, wherein said contours comprise ridges.

24. The toner refill kit according to claim 18, wherein said base member includes protrusions configured to releasably engage with receptacles formed on the toner hopper.

25. The toner refill kit according to claim 18, further comprising a sealing member provided on said opening of said toner container, wherein said first orifice is configured to be releasably engagable with said opening.

26. The toner refill kit according to claim 19, further comprising a sealing member provided on said opening of said toner container, wherein said toner container engagement portion is configured to be releasably engagable with said opening outlet of said toner container.

27. The toner refill kit according to claim 26, wherein said sealing member includes an adhesive portion on a side facing an exterior of said toner container.

28. The toner refill kit according to claim 27, wherein said first orifice is configured to allow said adhesive portion to contact an outer surface of a lid of the hopper when said base member is engaged with said hopper and when said opening is engaged with said first orifice.

29. The toner refill kit according to claim 27, wherein said toner container engagement portion is configured to allow said adhesive portion to contact a surface of a lid of the hopper when said base member is engaged with the hopper and when said opening is engaged with said toner container engagement portion.

30. The toner refill kit according to claim 18, further comprising:

a first indica provided on said toner container adjacent said opening of said toner container; and

a second indica provided on said base member adjacent said first orifice, said second indica positioned to indicate a desired position of said first indica when said toner container is engaged with said first orifice.

31. The toner refill kit according to claim 19, further comprising:

a first indica provided on a toner container adjacent said opening of said toner container; and

a second indica provided on said base member adjacent said toner container engagement portion, said second indica positioned to indicate a desired position of said first indica when said opening is engaged with said toner container engagement portion.

32. The toner refill kit according to claim 31, wherein said adhesive portion has a length approximately equal to a diameter of said opening.